

of my career, working in the business world and as a public official, rarely have I been so privileged to work with such an extraordinary person that gives unselfishly and wholeheartedly to the interests and welfare of other people.

Lynn was born in Virginia to Molly and Andy Cowart and is the middle sister to Ms. Nora McCormick and Ms. Chris Cowart. Daughter of a Captain in the U.S. Navy, Lynn moved all around the United States, attending both public and Catholic schools, and graduated high school in Alexandria, Virginia. She then attended the University of Hawaii and business school in Hawaii.

Lynn's lengthy and impressive career began as a temporary employee for the Department of the Navy in Pearl Harbor. In 1968, Lynn moved to Washington, D.C. and worked in the Pentagon until 1972. Then, in 1973 she moved across the Atlantic Ocean to England where she worked in the United States Embassy in London under the auspices of the Defense Intelligence Agency. Lynn moved back to the United States in 1980 and worked for an attorney here in Washington, D.C. In 1982, she began working for Senator John Tower from Texas until his retirement. She then moved from the U.S. Senate to the U.S. House of Representatives to work for Representative Larry Combest where she worked for 18 years. In May of 2003, Representative Combest retired. On June 3rd, I was elected to fill the seat for the 19th District of Texas and Lynn accepted the position of Chief of Staff in my office.

Lynn's dedication to public service will continue after she retires from politics. This fall she will begin work at Island Creek Elementary School, serving the people of Fairfax County in Virginia's public school system.

Her career is impressive not only for its duration and the intriguing posts she has filled but more so for the integrity and strong work ethic she brings to each job. For over 30 years, Lynn has been a model of devotion, stability, fairness, and attentiveness that is nothing short of amazing. Her loyalty and passion for the 19th District is evident through her nearly 20-year commitment to the area. The Permian Basin and South Plains of Texas is a unique area where hard-working people are faithful to their roots in the oil and gas industry and agriculture. Lynn's integrity and personal attention to these people is astonishing. She has always taken time to listen and act upon any complaints or concerns that farmers or the hard-working folks of Texas had. When I was sworn in on June 5th, I know I would have been stranded and lost without Lynn's incredible capability to maintain patience with me. Six days out of the week, Lynn kept an incredible schedule and put in extended hours in order to keep the office running. Thanks to Lynn, who is the glue which holds my staff together, the offices in Washington D.C., Odessa and Lubbock stayed in business leading up to my election and my first hectic week as a U.S. Congressman. Her ability to remain positive in tough situations only proved to me that Lynn possesses confidence beyond anyone I have ever known. Without her I would not be as I am today: sure that my transition could not have gone any smoother. Over the years, Lynn has made a powerful impression upon people here on Capitol Hill and back home in Texas. Anyone in public service would do well to emulate her example if they truly desire a

career that makes a difference and leaves a legacy.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my sincere thanks to Lynn Cowart. I am truly honored to recognize her accomplishments. She will certainly be missed.

CENTENNIAL OF THE SUPER-  
INTENDENCY OF COLONEL  
CHARLES YOUNG—REDEDICA-  
TION OF THE BOOKER T. WASH-  
INGTON TREE

**HON. DEVIN NUNES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2003*

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to observe two very special events taking place in the Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park on August 23, 2003. The first is the centennial of the superintendency of Colonel Charles Young and secondly, the rededication of the Booker T. Washington Tree.

Born in Kentucky during the Civil War to the parents of former slaves in 1864, Charles Young became only the third African-American to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1889. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and assigned to the 10th U.S. Cavalry.

In the year 1903, then Captain Charles Young was in charge of the 9th U.S. Cavalry and had been assigned the duty of "Acting Superintendent" of the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, he was to be responsible for the supervision of payroll accounts and directing activities of rangers. That early summer Captain Young led his "Buffalo Soldiers" out of the cold and fog shrouded Presidio in San Francisco en route to the high sierras of Central California. Captain Young and his troopers arrived 16 days later amongst some of the largest and oldest living things on Earth and they began their historic summer working in the second national park ever created in the United States.

With this assignment, Captain Young not only became the first African-American superintendent in the U.S. Park Service history but also became the driving force in forging what would become today one of the most visited and highly recognized parks in the world.

During his tenure as superintendent, Colonel Young discovered and named a majestic Giant Sequoia after an individual that inspired and influenced his life, Booker T. Washington. After nearly 100 years, this tree has been rediscovered and stands as a monument to both Colonel Charles Young and Booker T. Washington.

Again, I ask you to join with me today in recognizing Colonel Charles Young and the rededication of the Booker T. Washington Tree in the Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2003*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bills (H.R. 2660), making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Chairman, during debate on H.R. 2660, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, I strongly supported the Obey/Miller Amendment regarding overtime regulations at the Department of Labor (DOL).

The amendment would block a proposal by the Bush Administration that will eliminate overtime under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act for millions of hard-working Americans who rely on overtime pay to make ends meet.

The DOL proposal would strip overtime rights from more than 8 million workers by allowing easier classification of workers as "white collar" employees ineligible for overtime.

Workers such as mid-level office workers in the offices of downtown Providence or the licensed practical nurses in Northern Rhode Island, or the EMTs, paramedics, and physical therapists on Aquidneck Island will lose under this proposal.

It is just another attempt by the Bush Administration to roll back the clock on years of important wage and hour laws.

This Congress should support the Obey/Miller Amendment and oppose the DOL overtime proposal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2003*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, 2003, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on rollcall No. 356 on H.R. 2673, the Fiscal Year 2004 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PORTER J. GOSS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2003*

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present on July 10, 2003 due to official travel overseas. As a result, I was not able to be present